

October 8, 2003

U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA- 29
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing regarding the Proposed regulations to implement the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children. I am an adoption professional and have been providing adoption home studies for domestic and international adoption for the past 20 years. I have been a private contractor for large and small agencies. I have the following concerns on the proposed regulations:

My understanding is that agencies will have to comply with the regulations of private accrediting bodies like the COA. Doing this will be very costly and may force small agencies to go out of business. Also requiring agencies to have a minimum balance of \$40,000 is a hardship for them. Requiring one million dollars of insurance also has been difficult for these agencies to acquire.

It is my hope that some solutions to these problems can be found so that we do not force small agencies out of business. This would force adoptive parents to only have large agencies to chose from and they would lose the option of having a small agency that can give them individualized attention.

I can be reached at (914) 682-8283 or adoptcmh@aol.com for any comments or questions.
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

Connie Mancini Haack, C.S.W.